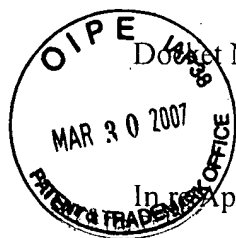


IF 1725



Document No.: 050395-0373

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re: Application of

Masatada NUMANO, et al.

Application No.: 10/579,442

Filed: May 15, 2006

For: CASTING NOZZLE

: Customer Number: 20277
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: Confirmation Number: 7856
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: Group Art Unit: 1725
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: Examiner: Not yet assigned
:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached form PTO-1449. It is respectfully requested that the references be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the U.S. filing date OR before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits. No certification or fee is required.

Each reference was first cited in a corresponding Supplementary European search report and its relevance is discussed therein. A copy of the Supplementary European search report, together with an English language version thereof, is attached for the Examiner's information.

10/579,442

Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: March 30, 2007

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SHEET 1 OF 1

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION IN AN APPLICATION (PTO-1449)				ATTY. DOCKET NO. 050395-0373		SERIAL NO. 10/579,442	
				APPLICANT Masatada NUMANO, et al.			
				FILING DATE May 15, 2006		GROUP 1725	

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
EXAMINER'S INITIALS	CITE NO.	Document Number Number-Kind Code ² (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear		
		US					
		US					
		US					

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
EXAMINER'S INITIALS	CITE NO.	Foreign Patent Document Country Codes-Number + -Kind Codes (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines Where Relevant Figures Appear	Translation Yes No	
		EP 0 040 073 A1	11-18-1981	ALLEGHENY LUDLUM STEEL CORPORATION		X	
		JP 63-43748	02-24-1988	ISHIKAWAJIMA HARIMA HEAVY IND CO LTD		JAPAN (w/English Abstract)	
		JP 57-137057	02-18-1981	NIPPON STEEL CORP		JAPAN (w/English Abstract)	
		JP 60-216955	10-30-1985	HITACHI ZOSEN CORP		JAPAN (w/English Abstract)	
		JP 60-12263	01-22-1985	HITACHI LTD		JAPAN (w/English Abstract)	
		GB 2 273 068 A	06-08-1994	ISHIKAWAJIMA HARIMA HEAVY IND CO LTD		X	
		WO 2004/020126 A1	03-11-2004	COMMONWEALTH SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH ORGANISATION		X	

OTHER ART (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)			
EXAMINER'S INITIALS	CITE NO.	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	
		Supplementary European Search Report issued in corresponding European patent application No. EP 05 76 5081 dated February 22, 2007	

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

1 Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). 2 Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.